



## SIA MEMBER ALERT

### NEW CONCUSSION LAW AND UPDATED SPORTS FORMS

#### **New Education Code Section 49475**

Effective January 1, 2012, pursuant to new Education Code Section 49475:

- Before a student may try-out, practice, or compete in any Member-sponsored extracurricular athletic program, the student and parent/legal guardian must review and execute a concussion head injury information sheet. This obligation applies to any interscholastic, intramural, or other sport or physical recreation program (including cheer/dance teams and band) sponsored or approved by the district, including middle school and elementary school programs.
- If a student is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a covered athletic activity, the student must immediately be removed from the activity and cannot resume practice, training, or participation until he/she has been cleared by a medical doctor (MD or DO, not physician's assistant (PA), nurse practitioner (NP), chiropractor, athletic trainer, or other type of health care provider) who: (1) personally has evaluated the student and clears them for play, and (2) affirmatively states on the release form that he/she has been specially trained in the management of concussions and that the medical evaluation and provided clearance is within the regular scope of his or her medical practice.
- The new law does not apply to physical education courses for credit. That does not mean, however, that Members cannot voluntarily apply some or all of these same rules regarding "withdrawal from play" and "return to play" standards, whether the original concussion or potential head injury occurred in organized sports or as part of a physical education class.

#### **Updated District Forms to Assist in Meeting this Obligation**

1. RSK-F100F Concussion Head Injury Information Sheet. Section 49475, requiring that students and parents be provided with a "concussion and head injury information sheet" that must be signed by all students/parents involved in covered activities occurring on and after January 1, 2012, does not state what information must be legally provided. To ensure member compliance, at least until new regulations, rules, or forms are adopted by the CDE and/or CIF, the provided form contains information regarding the law, how the district will implement the law during athletic events, and steps that should/must be taken by parents in cases of potential concussions and/or head injuries.
2. RSK-F100C Updated Sports Physical Examination. Unrelated to Section 49475, this updated form contains suggested modifications requested by athletic directors and physicians.
3. RSK-F100G Concussion and Head Injury Report Form/Concussion and Head Injury Release form. Parents may not be present at the time of a potential head injury, so there needs to be a method to provide them with notice. Members also need to keep track of when an athlete has been removed from participation and ensure that the corresponding medical release (reverse side of this all-inclusive form) before they return to training or participation. As an option, this form can be used when a coach believes a medical clearance should be obtained before an athlete is allowed to turn to practice or game play.
4. RSK-F100A Updated Athletic Participation Form. This updated form now includes a reference to the Concussion and Head Injury Information Sheet. The form has also been updated to address "religious" exemptions to the medical authorization clause, clarification/simplification of insurance requirements, and the ability to list/include all sports activities in a single form. Other general clarification changes were also made.